



## State of Maryland

### Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor –, Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

## MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

**March 15, 2011**

**Maryland Advisory Council Members:** M. Sue Diehl, Chair; Mike Finkle, Joshana Goga, Bob Pender, Vice-Chair; Charles Reifsnider, Anita Solomon

**Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent:** Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Michele Forzley, Edwin C. Oliver, Livia Pazourek, Anthony Swetz, Jr., Garth Thompson, Robert Turner, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

**PL 102-321 Council Members Present:** Sarah Burns, Coordinator; Herb Cromwell, Kate Farinholt, Vira Froehlinger, A. Scott Gibson, Diane Herr, Julie Jerscheid, Sharon Lipford, Coordinator; George Lipman, William Manahan, Cynthia Petion, Linda Raines, Sarah Rhine

**PL 102-321 Council Members Absent:** Lynn Albizo, Carol Allenza, Terry Bohrer, Tracee Bryant, Peter Cohen, Catherine Drake, Gerri Gray, Cindy Kauffman, Michael Lang, Dan Martin, Sheryl Sparer, Jane Walker, Kathleen Ward, Della Williams

**MHA Staff Present:** Brian Hepburn, Robin Poponne, Tom Merrick, Carole Frank, Clarissa Netter

**Guests and Others:** Joanne Meekins, Consumer Quality Team of MD; Dennis McDowell, Patricia Gibson, Chicquita Crawford, Daria Grayer, Lee Crump, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services; George Failla, Maryland Department of Disabilities; Victor Henderson, Maryland Department of Disabilities

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c/o Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

**Healthy People in Healthy Communities**

### **INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Sue Diehl. Attendees introduced themselves and the minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting were approved. Please note that approved minutes will be posted on MHA's Web site, [www.dhmd.state.md.us/mha](http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/mha). The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources".

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Cynthia Petion announced that MHA was preparing for the kickoff of the development of its FY 2012 operational State Mental Health Plan. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Hearing and Speech Agency in Baltimore, key management staff will review MHA's previous goals and establish priorities. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, at Oheb Shalom, also in Baltimore, stakeholders will gather to help shape the objectives/strategies for the Plan. Last year, more than 70 representatives attended. This year, representation from the substance abuse community will be invited. Please hold the date and registration materials and other details will be forthcoming.
- MHA will hold its Annual Child and Adolescent Conference on March 29<sup>th</sup>. You may register online at <http://trainingcenter.umaryland.edu>. But note that 400 people have already registered and the conference may be sold out. Also, MHA's Annual Conference on Health Care Reform and Mental Health will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Martins West in Baltimore. Early registration will be available in April, through the University of Maryland Training Center. You may use the MHA Web site (cited above) and click on the training link.
- George Failla, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), announced that Victor Henderson (also present), MDOD Director of Research and Evaluation, would be the Department's representative on the Council. He will take the place of James Reinsel who retired in January.
- Vira Froehlinger announced that the Workforce Steering Committee will launch its Web-based training in April. There will be free access to the training, which is based on the 10 modules designed by the committee. This core competencies training for mental health professionals will offer CEUs. Additional modules will be developed for core competencies for administrators and educators in the school system later this year.
- Mike Finkle announced that On Our Own of Maryland will host a Visionary Conversations event - Wellness Recovery Action Planning: A Do-it-Yourself Power Tool featuring Mary Ellen Copeland, Ph.D., who had the lead role in developing the Wellness and Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). The event will take place on April 5<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4:30 at Turf Valley. For registration and/or more information visit [www.onourownmd.org](http://www.onourownmd.org). The University of Maryland Training Center will provide logistical support.

Although not announced in the meeting, we wish to remind everyone to hold the dates, May 15<sup>th</sup>, (Silver Spring) and May 21<sup>st</sup>, (Inner Harbor), for NAMI Walks. There will once again be two locations, this time on separate days. You can visit the NAMI MD Web site for more information.

**THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Brian Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director of MHA, delivered the following report:

- Budget Issues: As mentioned last month, the budget hearings went well. There will be continued discussions about the reimbursement rate received by community providers. The 2013 budget is still being shaped. MHA is awaiting word from the legislators as to whether it will be able to negotiate with stakeholders on pending cuts or if it will be required to make cuts across the board. Brian thanked the Maryland Coalition for Children's Mental Health, Community Behavioral Health Association (CBH), Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD), and other advocacy groups for their support.
- Steve Sharfstein, M.D., President, Sheppard Pratt Health Systems, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Schools of Law, Medicine, and Social Work will host a conference on April 25<sup>th</sup> on Assisted Outpatient Treatment. A cross-section of professionals and stakeholders has been invited to attend.
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), in Maryland, is an initiative of DHMH and the Maryland Mental Health Transformation Office and is conducted in partnership with the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD). Anne Arundel Community College will host MHFA training for all community college staff statewide. MHAMD and Maryland Mental Health Transformation Office will host a special event with Higher Education professionals to discuss MHFA, earlier identification of students who may have mental health issues and ways to link them to professionals before there is a need for intervention. To learn more, visit [www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org](http://www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org).
- Retirement Announcements:
  - Lissa Abrams, MHA Deputy Director of Community Programs and Managed Care, will retire in April. The administration sent out recruitment notices and, after reviewing all candidates, Daryl Plevy has been chosen to replace her. Ms. Plevy was formerly the Core Service Agency director for Montgomery County and is the current director of the Maryland Mental Health Transformation Office.
  - Jim Johnson, DHMH Deputy Secretary for Operations has retired. He will be replaced by Thomas H. Kim who has a broad background in operations, procurement, and fiscal management. He was most recently the Deputy Budget Director for the City of Baltimore.
  - Also, the new Deputy Secretary for Health Care Finance is Charles J. Milligan who has replaced John Folkemer. Charles Milligan was the former Medicaid Director for the state of New Mexico and recently served as director of the Center for Health Program Development and Management (Hilltop Institute) at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC).

- Dr. Hepburn discussed updates regarding Baltimore Behavioral Health, Inc. (BBH). During a status hearing, BBH was found to be in compliance. An earlier plan of correction was returned to Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) by BBH. It was accepted and BBH continues to be in good standing. Meanwhile, MHA is working with ValueOptions (ASO) to enhance methods of oversight by implementing additional screening processes. However, it will require additional funding. Until then the PMHS will continue to facilitate technology to identify individuals with eligibility outliers and look closely at system-wide supports.

**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW – Updates from Community Behavioral Health Association (CBH), Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD), and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI):**

A brief discussion about Health Care Reform opened this segment with affirmations that the mental health field, especially in Maryland, needs to remain vigilant to protect services that may not be seen as core medical benefits and to protect a flexible budget that supports recovery and resilience. Three bills, HB 165, 166, and 170, related to Health Care Reform, were briefly discussed; establishment of the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council in statute, establishment of Maryland's health insurance exchange per Health Care Reform, and specific changes to state health insurance law to conform to Health Care Reform.

Additional comments on legislative bills were provided by representatives of the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD), the Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC), Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA), and others. CBH and MHAMD provided lists of actions on proposed legislation related to mental health. Some discussion focused on bills to promote:

- Integration of mental health and addiction treatment services
- Community college tuition waiver for individuals with disabilities
- The raise on state taxes on alcoholic beverages
- Notice and hearings prior to transfers to Clifton T. Perkins Hospital from other state facilities
- Changes in Local Management Boards (LMBs), State Coordinating Councils (SCCs), and Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs) to support services to children with special needs
- Extension of current provisions to provide access to services for Veterans
- Extension of the disability tax credit for an additional year
- Requirement for staff of psychiatric facilities to be trained in trauma-informed care
- Exemption of therapeutic group homes from residential child care staff certification requirements

Other legislation discussed:

- Proposed change to state facilities' and residential centers' definition of abuse
- Clinical Review Panels to address refusal of medications in state prisons
- Additional procedures governing when someone could be discharged on conditional release
- Commitment for specified sex offenders to state facilities

Legislation sparked by BBH situation includes:

- Requirement of certification of recovery homes serving 3 or more persons
- Specific guidelines for providing mental health treatment to individuals with co-occurring disorders

For further details, please see the Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH) legislative listing, **Attachments # 1 and 2**, or visit CBH's Web site, [www.mdcbh.org](http://www.mdcbh.org). Additional listings and information are available through NAMI's Web site, [www.NAMI.org](http://www.NAMI.org) (click on advocacy and bills), through the Mental Health Association of Maryland's Web site, <http://www.mhamd.com>.

The meeting was adjourned.